

REMARKS

All claims, claims 1-18, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,822,081 ("Blose"). This rejection is respectfully traversed because the cited art does not disclose all of the limitations in the claimed invention.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a pipe connection including a pin member, a box member, and a positive stop torque shoulder. The pin member includes an external thread increasing in width in one direction and having load and stab flanks. The box member includes an internal thread increasing in width in the other direction and having load and stab flanks. The width of the internal and external threads are selected to provide a selected clearance at least between the internal load and stab flanks and the external load and stab flanks upon final makeup of the connection. Claim 10, as amended, is an independent method claim with similar limitations.

The present invention "incorporates a positive stop torque shoulder in conjunction with a wedge thread, which allows for better axial control of the connection at final make up without sacrificing existing advantages of the wedge thread technology." ¶ 3 on p. 2. Using this arrangement, connection wear limitation can be better controlled.

The amendments to the claims are disclosed in the specification. For example, in paragraph 42 on page 11, the specification described three specific embodiments of the invention. "In one embodiment, in one aspect, the invention offers a positive stop torque shoulder that can work in conjunction with the wedge thread torque stop as a primary torque shoulder. In one embodiment, in one aspect, the invention offers a positive stop torque shoulder that can work in conjunction with the wedge thread torque stop as a secondary torque shoulder." The third described embodiment related to a positive stop torque shoulder that works independently from the wedge thread: "In one embodiment, in one aspect, the invention offers a positive stop torque shoulder that can work independent of the wedge thread as a torque shoulder when the connection is made up." This means that the flanks of the thread have a clearance so

that the wedge thread is not operating in conjunction with the positive stop torque shoulder to provide a torque shoulder. Thus, the limitations added to claims 1 and 10 are fully supported by the specification.

Blose discloses that the shoulder and end faces may be allowed to contact before complete thread make up. Col. 10, ll. 13–15. Blose also discloses, however, that the fully made up condition occurs when the flanks are touching. Thus, Blose does not disclose having a selected clearance between the flanks upon final make up of the connection.

Because Blose does not disclose all of the recited limitations, independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable over the cited art. Dependent claims 2–9 and 11–18 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant believes this reply to be responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09432/183002).

Respectfully submitted,

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